



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

### Syllabus

Discovery Middle School  
1304 Hughes Road  
Madison, AL 35758

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\*Please communicate via Parent Square or Email due to room displacement

Course Description:	<p><u>Honors:</u> To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 7th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 7th graders who will eventually progress to 8th Grade Honors Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking / listening, and language. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they continue to progressively build the skills necessary for academic success. In addition, they will be guided through the research process. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. Outside reading and summer reading are required.</p> <p>Additional information for this course can be found on the Alabama Department of Education website. State standards can be found at <a href="http://Alex.state.al.us">Alex.state.al.us</a></p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.</li><li>2. Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.</li><li>3. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.</li><li>4. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.</li></ol>
Classroom Expectations:	<p>Classroom Rules and Procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Maintain a positive and respectful attitude.</li><li>2. Be responsible and organized.</li><li>3. Be kind and respectful to others.</li><li>4. Set high expectations for yourself.</li><li>5. Be accountable for your actions and your learning.</li></ol> <p><a href="#">Classroom Management Plan</a></p>
Textbook:	<p>McGraw Hill Study Sync Grade 7 is available for use within the classroom. For at-home access, all students will have a StudySync app on their Chromebooks; the app is also available for their personal devices such as cell phones. Their English teacher will be able to provide an access code. The app can be used without internet access.</p>

	StudySync Grade 7 ISBN: 978-1949-739-176
<b>Grading:</b>	<p>Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining (40%) being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.</p> <p><b>Any work that is not submitted will receive a grade of 0 until it is turned in and graded. It will also be noted with "missing" in the gradebook. Late work is graded at the teacher's discretion.</b></p>
<b>Make-up Work:</b>	<p>Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit <u>previously</u> assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be made up within three school days of returning. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences. (DMS 2025-2026 Student Handbook).</p> <p><b>Missing quizzes or tests should never be attempted outside of the classroom environment. Students who take quizzes or tests outside of the classroom will receive a zero.</b></p>
<b>Late Work:</b>	<p>For work turned in late, the following policy will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 1 day late = maximum credit 89%</li> <li>◦ 2 days late = maximum credit 79%</li> <li>◦ 3 days late = maximum credit 69%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.</li> </ul>
<b>Accommodations:</b>	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
<b>Turnitin Notice:</b>	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
<b>Technology</b>	<p>Concerning laptop utilization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities.</li> <li>2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers.</li> <li>3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops.</li> </ol>

	4. Laptops will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher and should be brought to school daily.
<b>Materials and Supplies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose Leaf Paper</li> <li>• 1 Composition Notebook</li> <li>• 1 set of Tab Dividers</li> <li>• Assorted Highlighters</li> <li>• Sticky Notes</li> <li>• Index Cards</li> <li>• Pencils/Pens</li> <li>• Class novels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Novels are TBA and students will need to access these titles at home. Students will need to purchase a physical or electronic copy, or they can borrow a copy from the library.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>36 Week Plan <i>*Subject to Change</i></b>		
<b>*Grammar practiced weekly</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>On-Level</b>	<b>Honors</b>
1	Course Introduction and Expectations	Course Introduction and Expectations
2	Summer Reading Unit	Summer Reading Unit
3	Summer Reading Unit	Summer Reading Unit
4	Descriptive Writing Unit	Descriptive Writing Unit
5	Novel Study	Novel Study
6	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
7	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
8	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
9	Creative Reading/Writing Unit	Creative Reading/Writing Unit
10	Creative Reading/Writing Unit	Creative Reading/Writing Unit
11	Creative Reading/Writing Unit	Creative Reading/Writing Unit
12	Research/Informational Text Unit	Research/Informational Text Unit
13	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
14	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
15	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
16	Writing Unit	Writing Unit
17	Midterm Review	Midterm Review

<b>18</b>	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
<b>19</b>	Research Project	Research Project
<b>20</b>	Research Project	Research Project
<b>21</b>	Research Project	Novel Unit
<b>22</b>	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
<b>23</b>	Novel Unit	Writing Unit
<b>24</b>	Novel Unit	Writing Unit
<b>25</b>	Writing Unit	Socratic Seminar
<b>26</b>	Writing Unit	Socratic Seminar
<b>27</b>	Independent Nonfiction Book Study	Independent Nonfiction Book Study
<b>28</b>	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit
<b>29</b>	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit
<b>30</b>	Spring Testing Preparation	Spring Testing Preparation
<b>31</b>	Spring Testing	Spring Testing
<b>32</b>	Literature Circles	Literature Circles
<b>33</b>	Literature Circles	Literature Circles
<b>34</b>	Literature Circles	Literature Circles
<b>35</b>	Finals Review	Finals Review
<b>36</b>	Final Exam	Final Exam